AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The domestic production of oil palm seedlings is at present limited to the Central Plantation Crop Research Institute (CPCRI) at Palode which has a capacity of producing about 4 lakh seeds per annum. The demand for oil palm seedlings during Eighth Plan period is estimated at 17 million and therefore the balance quantity is required to be imported.

(c) Three seed gardens, one each in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala have been sanctioned to meet the future demand for oil palm seeds.

(d) Around 2.6 million oil palm seedlings were imported during the year 92-93 from Costa Rica, Ivory Coast, Benin & Papua New Guinea at a price varying from US P 0.42 to 0.45 per seedling depending upon the size of the order.

Farmers' attack on ANC in Karnataka

684. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA :
SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the farmers' attack on the multinational companies of Florida which are setting up a neem seed plant at Tumkur and Pioneer Hybrid Seeds Limited at Ranebennur in Dharwad district in Karnataka in support of their demand for banning the entry of MNCs in the seed sector and the Dunkel draft proposals ; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) There is no report of attack by farmers on the multinational company for neem seed plant at Tumkur and Pioneer Hybrid Seeds Limited at Ranebennur in Dharwad district, Karnataka.

Production of Cocoa in the Country

685. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI K.K. VEERAPPAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what had been the internal production of cocoa during the last three years, year-wise and demand of raw nuts ;

(b) what has been the peak and low market price of raw nuts during this period ;

(c) what steps have been taken to increase the production of cocoa in the country.

(d) whether there is any proposal to abolish the excise duty as in case of coffee and tea or at least reduce it in order to encourage cocoa cultivation in the country; and

(e) whether any memorandum has been received from cocoa cultivators in the past; if so, what were its contents and what action has since been taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The rough estimates of production of cocoa during the last three years is given below:—

(Tonnes)

1990-91 . . .	6622
1991-92 . . .	7281
1992-93 . . .	6757